

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /053 W

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P R 052220Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5682

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4710

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION AT PRIVATE LUNCHEON HOSTED
BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA

1. PRESIDENT SOMOZA DISCUSSED WIGTH ME TODAY (DECEMBER 4) SOME
OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRIVATE LUNCHEON WHICH SOMOZA HOSTED FOR
PRESIDENTS LAUGERUD, MOLINA, ODUBER, AND CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ
ON LAST SUNDAY, IMMEDIATELY AFTER SOMOZA'S FORMAL INAUGURATION
AS PRESIDENT OF NICARAGUA.

2. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY THE CLOSE
AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP THAT WAS DEMONSTRATED BETWEEN PRESIDENTS
MOLINA AND LOPEZ. SOMOZA SAID THAT THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE HAD
HAD A CORDIAL PRIVATE TALK AND HAD AGREED TO CONFER BY TELEPHONE
WITH EACH OTHER BETWEEN SAN SALVADOR AND TEGUCIGALPA. THEY
HAD ALSO BOTH EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE DIFFER-
ENCES
THAT EXIST BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS.

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3. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT THE VARIOUS MINISTERS WHO ARE

PROCEEDING TO CERACAS FOR MEETINGS BEGINNING DECEMBER 5 IN PREPARATION FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATES CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN CARACAS DECEMBER 13 AND 14, WILL ALSO CONTINUE EXPLORATORY TALKS ON HOW BEST TO ACCOMPLISH, IF POSSIBLE, A SOLUTION TO EL SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN DIFFERENCES. OTHER MATTERS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED IN A TENTATIVE WAY WOULD INCLUDE SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS AND STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE RELATIONS.

4. SOMOZA SAID THAT GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD APPEARED VERY SELF-CONFIDENT, ALERT, AND QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

5. SOMOZA SAID THAT PRESIDENT ODUBER HAD SOUGHT CONSIDERABLE ADVICE AND HAD PRIVATELY EXPLAINED SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES HE WAS ENCOUNTERING IN WALKING THE VERY NARROW LINE BETWEEN THE ABILITY TO HANDLE HIS OWN LEGISLATURE, AND AT THE SAME TIME FUNCTION WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY LACK OF PARTY CONTROL.

6. SOMOZA SAID THAT GENERAL LOPEZ APPEARED TO BE "RESIGNED" TO WHATEVER FATE MIGHT BRING HIS WAY.

7. SOMOZA IS, I BELIEVE, STILL OF THE OPINION THAT THE SUCCESS OF A RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS WILL DEPEND ON THE STRENGTH AND WILL OF THE INDIVIDUAL LEADERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES TO BE WILLING TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO BRING SUCH A SOLUTION ABOUT. PRESIDENT SOMOZA APPEARS MILDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN THIS DIRECTION HOWEVER, AND FEELS THAT A FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.
SHELTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU04710
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740354-0762
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741258/aaaabxpb.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION AT PRIVATE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRESIDENT SOMOZA
TAGS: PFOR, NU, XK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005